



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 p.m. by Mayor Schmidt.

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Somers

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2014-0215 Proclamation Honoring Cindy Grant

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

2014-0222 Proclamation Honoring Martin Schames

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Moravsik.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2014-0230 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 5, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2014-0213 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
MOMS Club of New London and Waterford - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$14.93 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Groton Utilities - \$8.64 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anna Mae Anderson - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Gerardo Pacheco - \$120.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
LSI Graphic Solutions - \$400.00 - Veterans Memorial Park

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2014-0220 Appointment of Mark Bancroft as a Regular Member to the Zoning Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0228 Public Hearing on Sandy Hollow Road Tree Trimming

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0229 Public Hearing on Rubino Driveway Apron, River Road

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Watson, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received communications regarding potential increases in CL&P rates; recycling; the lack of recycling bins; and trash pickup for Mystic merchants.

Councilor Moravsik attended the Mystic Arts Festival.

Councilor Cerf assisted with the homecoming of the Charles W. Morgan to the Mystic Seaport. She attended a Poquonnock Bridge Fire District meeting.

Mayor Schmidt announced that a press conference will be held on September 6, 2014, to discuss the Thames River Heritage Park. It will be followed by a Memorial Observance of the Anniversary of the Battle of Groton Heights.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next regular meeting of the RTM will be held September 10, 2014.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk noted that when the Council meets with Tom Hennick to discuss Freedom of Information (FOI) concerns she will invite the Board of Education and RTM to attend.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager announced that Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo and Assistant Town Manager Doug Ackerman are retiring. Mr. Pandolfo's last day in the office will be September 26, 2014, and Mr. Ackerman's will be October 31, 2014. The Town Manager noted that an offer has been made for the Director of Planning and Development position and the solicitation for Police Chief will close September 15, 2014. Mr. Oefinger stated that the annual Town auction will be held at Fitch Middle School on August 23, 2014.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

Chairman Flax read the minutes of August 5, 2014, which are on file at the Town Clerk's office.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

The Committee of the Whole discussed extending the audit contract; a Title VI policy, the Deputy Town Clerk job description; the salary range for an Assistant Town Manager; a public hearing for trimming trees on Sandy Hollow Road; a public hearing for the Rubino driveway apron on River Road; and an FOI complaint.

IX. NEW BUSINESS**2014-0220 Appointment of Mark Bancroft as a Regular Member to the Zoning Commission**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARK BANCROFT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Mark J. Bancroft, 233 High Street, Mystic, is hereby appointed as a regular member (from an alternate member) to the Zoning Commission for a term ending 12/31/18.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0228 Public Hearing on Sandy Hollow Road Tree Trimming

RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON TREE TRIMMING BY CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER ON SANDY HOLLOW ROAD

WHEREAS, on September 5, 1989, by resolution, the Groton Town Council designated Sandy Hollow Road as a Scenic Road according to Town ordinances, Sec. 13.5-121 to 13.5-124, and

WHEREAS, Connecticut Light and Power have requested to remove brush and trim trees around the power lines on Sandy Hollow Road, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on Connecticut Light and Power's proposed tree trimming on Sandy Hollow Road on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0229 Public Hearing on Rubino Driveway Apron, River Road

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF A DRIVEWAY APRON FOR THE RUBINO PROPERTY ON RIVER ROAD, A DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD

WHEREAS, on September 5, 1989, the Town Council designated a portion of River Road as a Scenic Road according to Town ordinances, Sec. 13.5-121 to 13.5-124, and

WHEREAS, Michael Rubino, owner of a parcel of land on River Road (PIN 261910460640), wants to install a paved driveway apron to access his property as required by Town road drainage standards, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on installation of the Rubino Driveway Apron, River Road, on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex

Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

MOTION TO AMEND to add "as required by Town road drainage standards" in the second WHEREAS paragraph was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Flax.

VOTE on Motion to Amend carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

In answer to Councilor Flax, the Town Manager noted that the Blight Ordinance is in effect and any blight complaints should be reported to Building Inspector Kevin Quinn.

Councilor Flax noted that Esker Point beach would be a better beach if its sand were replaced with a better quality sand. Councilors noted that studies have been done in the past. Sand has been replaced, but then it migrated to create problems in other areas.

Councilor Flax is disturbed by an article in the newspaper regarding the Board of Education (BOE) finding money in its budget to add a position and to purchase additional computers. Councilor Peruzzotti is concerned that the BOE budget was increased to cover a shortfall and now the Town cannot reduce the amount budgeted in the future due to the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). The Town Manager noted that the computers will be purchased with Department of Defense (DOD) grant money. By consensus, Councilors would like to meet with the Board of Education to discuss these items.

Councilor Frink proposed that the Committee of the Whole be updated monthly about ongoing issues. It was decided that topics should be given to the Mayor and Town Manager in advance

The Town Manager noted that he is setting up meetings with Tim Ryer and State Legislators as requested.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant